

**REMARKS**

Claims 4 and 7 have been canceled.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-6 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for this amendment can be found on page 13, lines 20-23 and from page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 5 of Applicants' specification as well as original claim 3. Support for the solid polymerizing step can be found for example in the last paragraph on page 16 of the specification.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Pielartzik et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,084,547 ("Pielartzik").

In the present invention, melt polymerizing is carried out in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 1-methylimidazole, 2-methylimidazole, and a pyridine compound represented by the formula (VII). Additionally, the liquid crystalline polyester produced by melt-polymerizing is solidified by solid polymerization.

Applicants submit that Pielartzik does not teach or suggest melt-polymerizing in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 1-methylimidazole, 2-methylimidazole, and a pyridine compound represented by the formula (VII). Applicants further submit that Pielartzik does not teach or suggest solid-polymerizing the liquid crystalline polyester produced by melt-polymerizing. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Pielartzik does not anticipate the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Murakami et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,048,347 ("Murakami").

Applicants have canceled claim 7. Accordingly, the rejection over Murakami is moot.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 28, 2005